

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules comprising at least one biodegradable polymer, wherein the gum base has a water content of less than 5.0% by weight of the gum base.

2. (Original) Gum base granules according to claim 1,
wherein said gum base comprises substantially solely at least one biodegradable polymer.

3. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~,
wherein at least one of said biodegradable polymers comprises a polyester produced through reaction of at least one alcohol or derivative thereof and at least one acid or derivative thereof.

4. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 3~~,
wherein at least one of said biodegradable polymers is an elastomer comprising a
~~elastomers comprises said~~ polyester obtained by polymerization of at least one cyclic ester.

5. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 4~~,
wherein the gum base has a water content of less than ~~5.0%, preferably less than~~ 1.5% by weight of the gum base.

6. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 5~~,
wherein the gum base has a water content of less than 1.0%, ~~preferably substantially 0%~~
by weight of the gum base.

7. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 6~~,
wherein ~~the~~ a size of the gum base granules are within the range of 0.01mm · 0.01 mm to 2mm · 2mm, ~~preferably within the range of 0.1mm · 0.1mm to 1.0 mm · 1.0mm.~~

8. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 7~~,
comprising at least one biodegradable polymer in the amount of about 1% to about 100% by weight of the gum base.

9. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 8~~,
wherein said granulated gum base ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one high molecular weight elastomeric biodegradable polymer in an amount of about 0% to about 75% by weight of said gum base.

10. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 9 ~~any of the claims 1 to 9~~,
wherein the molecular weight of said at least one high molecular weight elastomeric biodegradable polymer is from about 10000 g/mol to 800000 g/mol Mn.

11. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 10~~,
wherein said granulated gum base ~~comprising~~ comprises at least one low molecular weight elastomer solvent in an amount of about 0% to about 90% by weight of said gum base.

12. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 11 ~~any of the claims 1 to 11~~,
wherein the molecular weight of said at least one low molecular weight elastomer solvent is from about 1000 g/mol to 50000 g/mol Mn.

13. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 12~~,
wherein ~~the~~ gum base granules ~~comprises~~ comprise sweetener in an amount of less than 50% by weight.

14. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 13~~,
wherein the gum base is substantially free of lubricants, anti-adherents and glidants.

15. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 14~~,
wherein ~~the~~ natural resins provide an improved and sticky texture of the gum base when applied in chewing gum formulation.

16. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 15~~,
wherein said gum base is substantially wax free.

17. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 16~~,
wherein said gum base is substantially fat free.

18. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 17~~,
wherein said gum base comprises filler in an amount of about 0% to about 50% by weight of the gum base.

19. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 18~~,
wherein said gum base granules comprise active ingredients, at least a part of said active ingredients been torn into the chewing gum forming granules or at least a part of the chewing gum forming granules previous to compression.

20. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 19~~,
wherein said gum base comprises synthetic resin in an amount of about 15% to about 99%, ~~preferably about 15% to about 80%~~ by weight of the gum base.

21. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 20~~,
wherein said gum base comprises emulsifiers and/or fats in an amount of about 10% to about 40% by weight of the gum base.

22. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 21~~,
wherein said gum base comprises wax in an amount of about 2% to about 30% by weight of the gum base.

23. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 22~~,
further comprising flavoring agents, wherein at least a part of the flavoring agents has been torn into the gum base or at least a part of the gum base previous to compression.

24. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 23~~,
wherein said at least one biodegradable polymer comprises at least one polyester obtained by polymerization of at least one compound selected from the group consisting of cyclic esters, alcohols or derivatives thereof and carboxylic acids or derivatives thereof.

25. (Currently Amended) Gum base granules according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 24~~,
wherein said gum base granules comprise at least one non-biodegradable polymer.

26. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum comprising the gum base according to claim 1 ~~any of the claims 1 to 25~~.

27. (Original) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26,
wherein at least a part of said chewing gum polymers are non-biodegradable.

28. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~or 27~~,
wherein said chewing gum granules are blended and compressed together with chewing gum ingredients, wherein the chewing gum ingredients are preferably powdered chewing gum ingredients, such as sweetener, flavor, fillers and emulsifiers.

29. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of the claims 26 to 28~~,
wherein the water content is ~~less than 5.0%, preferably~~ less than 1.5% by weight of the gum base.

30. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of the claims 26 to 28~~,
wherein the water content is substantially 0%.

31. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of the claims 26 to 30~~,
wherein said biodegradable gum base comprises at least two biodegradable polymers.

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32. (Currently Amended) Compressed chewing gum according to claim 26 ~~any of the claims 26 to 31~~,
wherein said biodegradable gum base granules are used together with conventional non-biodegradable gum base granules.